



## MECKLENBURG COUNTY Health Department

October 19, 2009

Dear Health Care Provider,

The Mecklenburg County Health Department is planning to conduct H1N1 school-located vaccination clinics in CMS public schools November through December 2009. Parents will soon receive information about the vaccine, the disease, and the vaccination clinics. Parents will also be informed that many providers will be administering H1N1 vaccine in their offices. School located vaccination clinics will provide another option for parents and will only be given with signed parental consent.

Since the primary care provider is the optimal source of health care, we encourage parents to seek H1N1 vaccination from their health care providers. However, vaccinating children at school can help meet the high demand for vaccination in this priority group. School located clinics may also decrease the burden on local health care providers who may be busy treating those who are infected with the 2009 H1N1 virus and/or seasonal influenza. We hope that if parents choose not to get the vaccine through your practice you will be able to reassure them that having their child vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 at school is a safe alternative.

As a reminder, all health care providers administering any vaccine are encouraged to report clinically significant adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). A report should be submitted even if the reporter is not certain that the vaccine caused the event. More information can be found at <http://vaers.hhs.gov/>. Reports may be filed securely online, by mail, or by fax. Report forms are available online or can be obtained by calling 1-800-822-7967.

If you have questions about this program, please contact Dr. Stephen Keener at the Mecklenburg County Health Department at 704-336-5165. For more information about school-located vaccination clinics, please contact Maria Bonaiuto at 704-304-6700. For additional information about the 2009 H1N1 virus or vaccine, please visit [www.meckhealth.org/h1n1](http://www.meckhealth.org/h1n1), or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

Thank you,

Stephen R. Keener, MD MPH  
Medical Director

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